

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 212594
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-03 DHA-05 CA-01 INRE-00
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-----117248 061832Z /46

O 061816Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RH, CASC

SUBJECT: ARREST IN RHODESIA OF AMERICAN NUN

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 3624

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL RELAYING REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
FROM MARYKNOLL SISTERS IN TANZANIA WE ARE REPEATING TO
YOU CABLES TO AND FROM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA CONCERNING
THIS CASE.

2. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED SEPTEMBER 6,
BUT NOT USED IN AFTERNOON BRIEFING.

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AMERICAN NUN IN RHODESIAN JAIL

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER DETAILS ON THE ARREST OF
AN AMERICAN NUN IN RHODESIA? ANY COMMENT?

ANSWER: OUR LATEST INFORMATION IS THAT MARYKNOLL SISTER
JANICE MCLOUGHLIN IS IN PRISON IN SALISBURY. SHE HAS BEEN

DETAINED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE LAW AND ORDER MAINTENANCE ACT WHICH PROVIDES FOR DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE. SHE HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY CHARGED OR BROUGHT TO COURT. SHE APPAR-

ENTLY IS IN GOOD SPIRIT AND HAS BEEN PROVIDED WITH LEGAL COUNSEL BY THE CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT IN SALISBURY. HER LAWYERS ARE FREE TO SEE HER AS IS THE PRISON CHAPLAIN. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OBJECTS TO THE ARBITRARY DETENTION OF ITS CITIZENS OVERSEAS AND THEIR IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL. WE ARE CONCERNED BY SISTER JANICE'S DETENTION AND WILL DO ALL WE POSSIBLY CAN TO SECURE FAIR TREATMENT FOR HER. AS YOU KNOW, THE US DOES NOT MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR REPRESENTATION IN SALISBURY. FOR THIS REASON WE ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE THE CUSTOMARY PROTECTION TO U.S. CITIZENS AND HAVE URGED AMERICANS NOT TO TRAVEL TO OR RESIDE IN RHODESIA.

3. OBVIOUSLY, IN ANY STATEMENT TO PUBLIC WE WANT TO AVOID MENTION OF DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN OURSELVES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RHODESIA REGIME. VANCE

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